

Threatened and Endangered Species in Forests of Wisconsin

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FORKED ASTER

(*Aster furcatus*)

Federal Status: Not Listed

State Status: Threatened

Description:

The forked aster is an early fall-blooming wildflower that grows 1 to 3 feet tall. From

August through September it is crowned by flat-topped or rounded clusters of white flowers, each blossom 1 to 1 1/2 inches in diameter. With age, the flowers

may take on lilac to rosy tones. Below the flowers are a series of jagged-edged leaves, rough on top and smooth below. Upper leaves are oval; lower leaves are heart-shaped.



Habitat: It may be found in southeastern Wisconsin at the edges of mixed oak woods and often near streams under semi-open canopy.



Forestry Considerations: The forked aster actually thrives in places of moderate disturbance, such as forests that have undergone selective cutting. Clearcutting and severe habitat modification should be avoided. Winter harvest, when the ground is solidly frozen, will minimize impact to this species. Following Wisconsin's *Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality* would provide additional protection.

